



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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SOUTHERN ARIZ. NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIER SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR ALIEN SMUGGLING

TUCSON, Ariz. – Adrian Adolfo Santacruz, 19, of Nogales, Ariz., was sentenced here today to four months in prison by U.S. District Judge David C. Bury. On April 27, 2005, Santacruz pleaded guilty to two federal charges of Transportation of an Illegal Alien for Private Financial Gain and Making a False Statement. Santacruz was ordered to turn himself into U.S. Marshal's Service and begin serving his sentence on October 19, 2005.

On January 30, 2005, Santacruz was driving a minivan as he reached a Border Patrol checkpoint in Amado, Ariz. Santacruz, a private first class in the Arizona Army National Guard at the time of his arrest, was wearing his battle dress (camouflage) uniform. He made a false statement to a Border Patrol agent stating that he was on "duty" and had been ordered by his sergeant to take the two men in his minivan to the Military Entry Processing Station in Phoenix.

The two men were in fact citizens of Mexico and in the U.S. illegally. Santacruz said he thought Border Patrol agents would waive him through the checkpoint without inspection because he was wearing his uniform. Santacruz admitted that he was to be paid \$400 for transporting the two illegal aliens.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Border Patrol. The prosecution was handled by George Ferko, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE #: CR05-00383-TUC-DCB
2005-176

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